Amendments to the Claims

1 – 27 (canceled)

28. (currently amended) A method for uniformly removing an MCrAlY bonding layer disposed over a component, the bonding layer comprising one or more degradations which result in different reactivity in an acid bath compared to MCrAlY bonding layer regions lacking said degradations, the method comprising:

a first step, coarsely removing portions of the bonding layer;

subsequent to the first step, using a heat treatment at a specified temperature completely diffusing ~~from a gas phase~~ a diffusion agent comprising the elements aluminum and cobalt~~at least two elements~~ into a remaining portion of the bonding layer, wherein at least one said element of the diffusion agent diffuses into the component directly from a gas phase and wherein~~the completely diffusing~~ the diffusion agent causes a phase change in the remaining portion of the bonding layer so that both degraded and non-degraded regions of the bonding layer exhibit a more uniform reactivity in the acid bath; and

uniformly removing the remaining portion of the bonding layer by exposure to the acid bath.

29. (previously presented) The method of claim 28, the coarsely removing step comprising mechanical sand blasting, immersing the component in an acid bath, or both.

30. (currently amended) The method of claim 28, the completely diffusing comprising diffusing ~~a metal~~the diffusion agent further comprising an additional ~~and a second~~ element selected from the group consisting of silicon and carbon.

31. (cancelled)

32. (previously presented) The method of claim 28, the completely diffusing comprising diffusing aluminum as a first element and cobalt as a second element, wherein the aluminum and cobalt diffusion into the remaining portion of the bonding layer causes γ and γ' phases to be converted into an aluminum-rich β phase, effective for allowing improved acid attack during the uniformly removing.

33. (cancelled)

34. (previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the M of the MCrAlY bonding layer is an element iron, cobalt or nickel.

35. (currently amended) The method of claim 34, wherein the at least one said element of the diffusion agent diffuses into the component directly from a gas phase via ~~completely diffusing comprises~~ plasma spraying.

36. (currently amended) The method of claim 34, wherein the at least one said element of the diffusion agent diffuses into the component directly from a gas phase via ~~completely diffusing comprises~~ evaporation coating.

37. (currently amended) The method of claim 34, wherein the at least one said element of the diffusion agent diffuses into the component directly from a gas phase via ~~completely diffusing comprises~~ chemical vapor deposition.

38. (currently amended) A method for uniformly removing an MCrAlY bonding layer disposed over a component, the bonding layer comprising a partial area comprising corrosion products, the method comprising:

a first step, coarsely removing portions of the bonding layer;

subsequent to the first step, using a heat treatment at a specified temperature completely diffusing ~~from a gas phase~~ a diffusion agent comprising the elements aluminum and cobalt ~~at least two elements~~ into a remaining portion of the bonding layer wherein at least one said elements of the diffusion agent diffuses into the component directly from a gas phase; and

mechanically removing the partial area,

wherein the completely diffusing of the diffusion agent has enabled the partial area to become sufficiently brittle for the mechanically removing.

39. (previously presented) The method of claim 38, the bonding layer comprising a metal compound, and the coarsely removing step comprising mechanical sand blasting, immersing the component in an acid bath, or both.

40. (currently amended) The method of claim 38, the completely diffusing comprising diffusing the diffusion agent further comprising an additional~~a metal and a second~~ element selected from the group consisting of silicon and carbon.

41. (previously presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the applying the diffusion agent causes a phase change in the remaining portion of the bonding layer.

42. (cancelled)

43. (previously presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the M of the MCrAlY bonding layer is an element iron, cobalt or nickel.

44. (currently amended) The method of claim 43, wherein the at least one said element of the diffusion agent diffuses into the component directly from a gas phase via ~~completely diffusing comprises~~ plasma spraying.

45. (currently amended) The method of claim 43, wherein the at least one said element of the diffusion agent diffuses into the component directly from a gas phase via ~~completely diffusing comprises~~ evaporation coating.

46. (currently amended) The method of claim 43, wherein the at least one said element of the diffusion agent diffuses into the component directly from a gas phase via ~~completely diffusing comprises~~ chemical vapor deposition.

47. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 38, the mechanically removing selecting from the group consisting of sand blasting, ultrasound treatment, and dry ice blasting.